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Illinois
Environmental
Protection Agency

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ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

NONPOINT SOURCE WATER POLLUTION

NONPOINT SOURCE WATER POLLUTION

Nonpoint source water pollution (NPS) is the diffuse, intermittent runoff of pollutants from various sources. Precipitation moving over and through the ground picks up pollutants from these sources and carries them into rivers, lakes and groundwater. Major sources that contribute to Illinois NPS problems are agriculture, construction erosion, urban runoff, hydrologic modifications and resource extraction activities. Siltation, nutrients and suspended solids are the greatest NPS causes of lakes and streams not attaining full support ratings. The use of approximately 90% of Illinois' assessed lake acres and 55% of assessed stream miles has been impaired by nonpoint sources.

SECTION 319 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

The Water Quality Act of 1987 (Clean Water Act) included a new national initiative designed to help states develop innovative nonpoint source pollution control strategies. Section 319 of the Clean Water Act focuses on the importance of controlling nonpoint sources of pollution.

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Section 319 required each state to develop two reports, a State Assessment Report and a State Management Program Report. The State Assessment Report entitled, "Assessment of Nonpoint Source Impacts on Illinois Water Resources," was developed to identify the cause and source of nonpoint source pollution impairing Illinois' water resources. The State Assessment Report is updated biennially within the 305(b) "Illinois Water Quality Report."

"Illinois' Nonpoint Source Management Program Report" was developed to provide an overview of ongoing and new program initiatives that could be utilized to manage water resource problems as identified in the State Assessment Report.

Under Section 319, the U.S. EPA provides grants to states for the implementation of approved nonpoint source management programs. Funding under these nonpoint source program implementation grants has been used in Illinois to finance projects that demonstrate cost-effective solutions to nonpoint source problems and that promote the public's knowledge and awareness of NPS pollution.

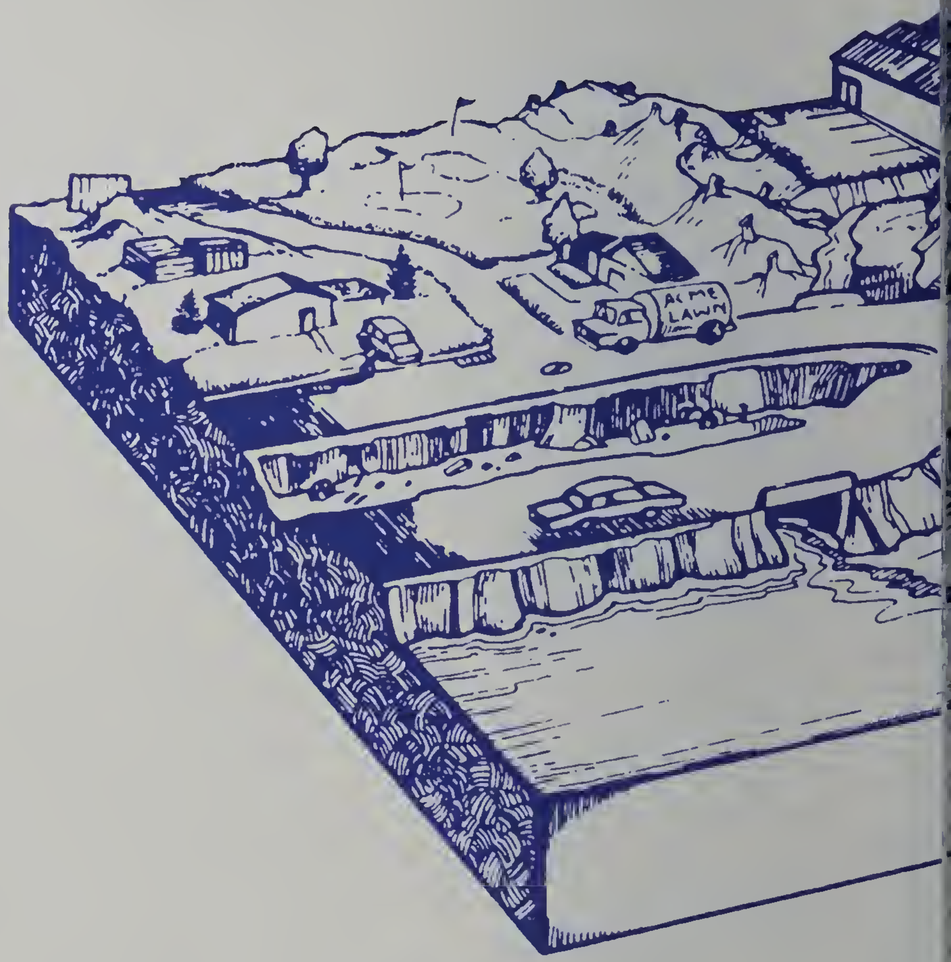
ILLINOIS PROJECTS

IEPA has applied for and received grants under Section 319 since 1990. This money is administered by IEPA to fund specific nonpoint source pollution control demonstration projects. Projects are underway throughout the State and many are near completion. The scope of these projects ranges from stormwater management and wetland protection, to stream stabilization and NPS pollution information/education. Projects were initiated by a variety of groups including state agencies, planning commissions, communities and soil and water conservation districts.

HOW TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS

Proposals for Section 319 grant funds should be submitted to the IEPA's Division of Water Pollution Control. Grant proposals must be submitted to the IEPA by December 1 of each year. Applicants must not only develop, implement and administer a project, but also ensure its long-term maintenance. The proposal should contain the following information:

1. Problem Statement - Identify the type and location of the water resource(s) at risk or adversely affected by nonpoint source pollution, the nature of the problem or water quality impact and the causes and sources of that impact. The 305(b) report should be used to identify the water resource(s).
   A. Proposals for information/education projects may not have to identify specific water resources, but may refer to general water quality problems.

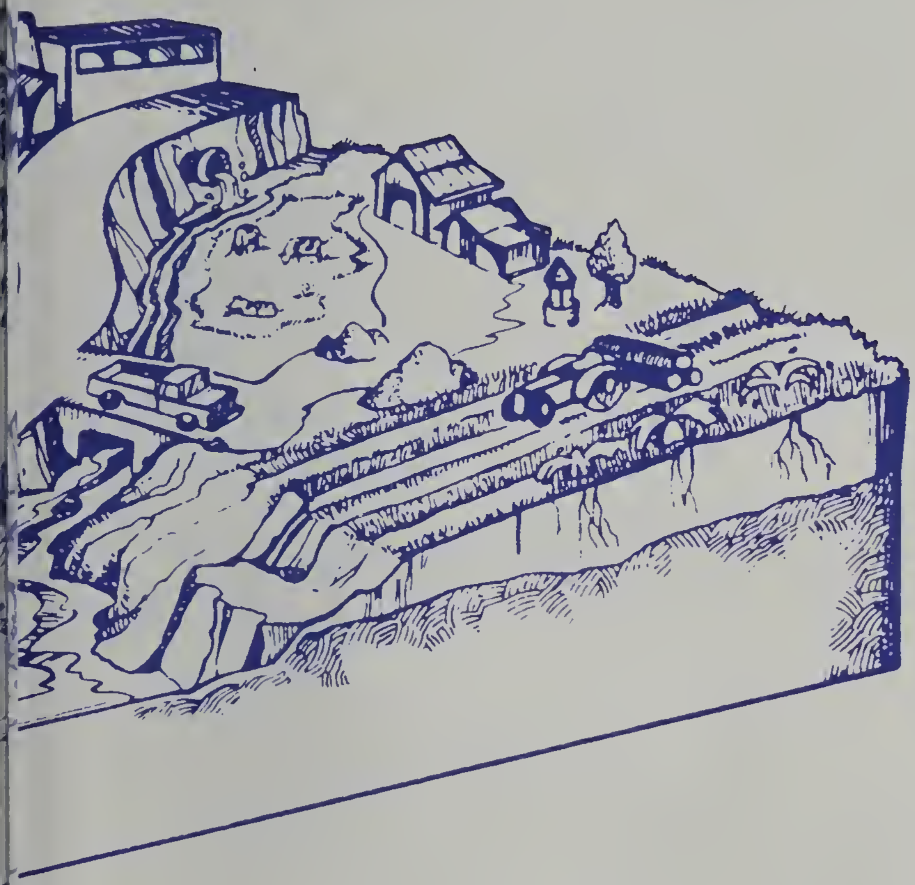


2. Purpose and Project Description - Provide a general description of the proposed project's objectives and the methods to be used for achieving those objectives.

3. Relationship to Other Activities - Identify any additional programs or projects that may be related to the proposed activity.

4. Scope of Work - Provide a detailed description and schedule of the

specific tasks that will be necessary to complete the proposed project. An evaluation of the project's effectiveness must be part of the scope of work.



5. Estimated Costs - Identify the projected costs associated with each task as well as the estimated total project cost. Section 319 funds are provided by U.S. EPA for 60% of the total cost, and a local match of non-federal funds is required for 40% of the cost. Projects funded by an equal or greater local match will receive additional consideration. Indicate the source and amount of local dollars or in-kind service used to match the grant funds.

6. Quality Assurance Project Plan - If the proposed project involves monitoring of water chemistry, biological or physical characteristics, the applicant must prepare a plan describing the nature and methods of the proposed monitoring activity.

WHO TO CONTACT

For additional information on IEPA's Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Control Grant Program or on specific Section 319 projects, contact:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
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